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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT VYSTREL and the Army Training Center at 50X1
Solnechnogorsk

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SOURCE

1. Next to the Frunze Military Academy in nation-wide army importance as a "military laboratory" was VYSTREL (Vishaya Strelkovaya Shkola - Superior Infantry School). Its original mission was to train officers to take command of an infantry regiment. It still did this, as of 1941, but also its curriculum covered all the arms and services, including air. VYSTREL provided both a refresher infantry course and a means to acquaint officers of other arms with the infantry. This institution had existed prior to the Russian Revolution and was known by the same name. It had been located in various cities near Moscow prior to 1934. In that year it was located, and remained, in an area which may be described as a "military university city," two kilometers east of the railroad station of Podsolnechnaya (on the Moscow-Kalinin-Leningrad line) and near the city of Solnechnogorsk [see Enclosure (A) for a sketch indicating location and installations of this army training center]. This area was occupied by the Germans for only a few days during World War II and was not damaged.
2. Students at VYSTREL were chosen to attend on the basis of their records; they could not apply. All students were officers and came from various arms and services. The number of students varied from two and one half to four thousand. They ranged in rank from junior lieutenant to full colonel. Classes were divided by rank: colonels and lieutenant colonels; majors and captains; and lieutenants. Some officers were sent to VYSTREL as students

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for six months, others for one year. All colonels attended the one-year course, which lasted from September to September. The six-month course began either in September or March and was attended by some of the junior officers. 50X1

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3. The emphasis at VYSTREL was on development of army weapons, best methods of utilizing them, and small unit tactics, up to and including the company. During the summer, the VYSTREL staff guided the combined exercises which were held in the adjoining area. Instructors from other institutions also took part in this activity. VYSTREL had from 300 to 400 instructors. These were chosen from the best infantry officers and particularly ones who excelled in marksmanship and utilization of unit firepower. As VYSTREL was a tactical infantry center (taktichisko-strelkovii centre), all the instructors were combined in one group, ie there were no faculties (kafedri). However, there was a senior instructor for each arm or service. There were four or five instructors for artillery. For other subjects, such as communications and air force, there was one instructor each. 50X1
4. Up to about late 1940, Lieutenant General AK Smirnov [equivalent to Major General in the US Army] was in charge of VYSTREL. He was then transferred to the post of commanding general of the Kharkov military district (okrug). His successor at VYSTREL was Major General (fnu) Kosiakin [equivalent to Brigadier General in the US Army].
5. I would like to give the full names of the military schools using the adjoining training area, across the lake from VYSTREL [see Enclosure (A)]. The Military Infantry School of Moscow was called Voennoye Pikhotoynoye Uchilishchi imeni Verkhovnoy Soveta (Military Infantry School imeni Supreme Soviet). A "voennoye uchilishche" is a military school devoted to training new officers. The Military Engineering School of Moscow was called Moskovskoye Voennoye Inzhinernaya Uchilishche (Moscow Military Engineering School). It was not located in Moscow proper, but in a small village about five kilometers from the capital. The Tank Academy of Moscow was called Akademiya Motorizatsii i Mehanizatsii KA imeni Stalina (Motorization and Mechanization Academy of the Red Army imeni Stalin). Tanks used in the combined exercises remained at the training area. Field training was conducted from 15 May until 1 September.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of Soviet Army Training Center Used by VYSTREL and Other Military Schools, 1941

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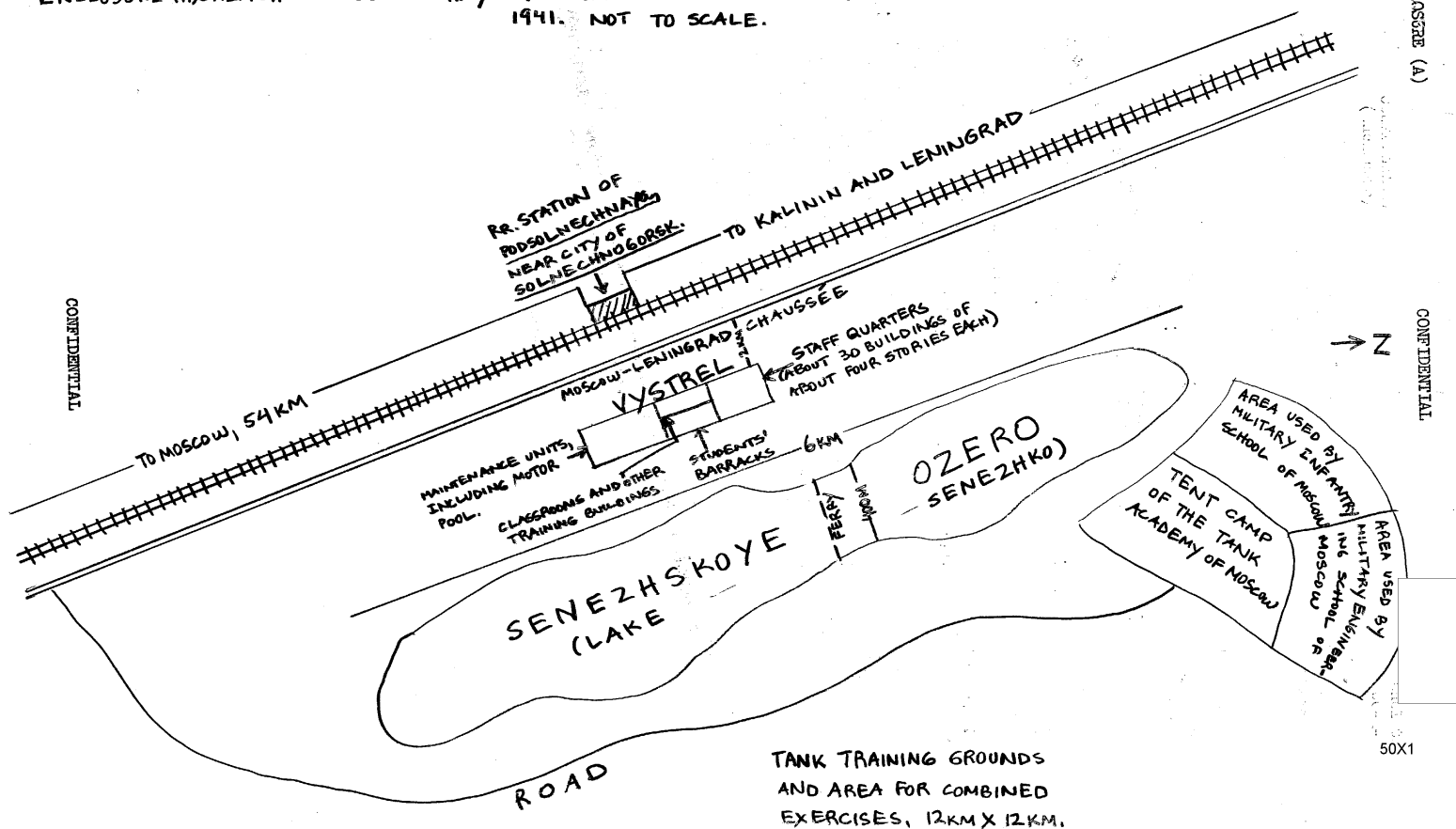
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ENCLOSURE (A) SKETCH OF SOVIET ARMY TRAINING CENTER USED BY "VYSTREL" AND OTHER MILITARY SCHOOLS.
1941. NOT TO SCALE.

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